

School Board Meeting March 12, 2015, 7:00 pm

Roll Call

Board Members: Kami Orr, James Montgomery, Eric Ansah-Antwi, Suzie Bassett, Susie Scherer

Absent: Tiffanie Owens, Heather Baker, Stephanie Wells

Non-Board Members: Matt Lovell, Tyler Baker, Shirley Fahringer

Pledge of Allegiance

Consent Agenda

Adoption of agenda, approve November meeting minutes – Suzie Bassett motioned to approve consent agenda and to add discussion and vote of salary cap on support staff and director to the agenda, James Montgomery - second. Unanimous

School Land Trust 2014 – 2015 Progress Report

Susie Scherer reported that monies have been or will be used to purchase a class set of microscopes, lesson materials, software, additional Chrome Books, and IT services. Additional Chrome Books will increase classrooms first thru fifth to have six per class. Eric Ansah-Antwi asked how we went about obtaining the cost. Susie Scherer said that we had bids from \$199 to \$259. Suzie Bassett motioned that we approve the School Land Trust 2014 – 2015 as it was written and reviewed. Eric Ansah-Antwi - second. Unanimous

School Land Trust 2015 – 2016 Plan

We have free training for My Math that came with the purchased software. That will happen in August. This allows all money to go to Technology services: \$1000 for IT support, \$1000 for software, and \$19,884 for computers. The plan is to have 10 Chrome Books per classroom and some as backup. The software and Chrome Books will help to get all students 100% on reading level by third grade. Kami Orr asked if anyone was still using Saxon Math. Susie Scherer reported that Kindergarten and second grade are using it as a filler. Next year everyone will be using My Math, for example first grade teachers had to go back and review concepts before they could go on to first grade math. Susie Scherer commented that My Math gives the students deeper knowledge. James Montgomery motioned that we approve the School Land Trust 2015 – 2016 Plan, Suzie Bassett - second. Unanimous

Public Comment

Tyler Baker, a Boy Scout and former student, asked why is Saxon Math is not here any more. Susie Scherer explained that Saxon Math doesn't teach the why's only teaches by rote repetition.

USOE Accountability Survey

This is a Utah State Office of Education document that is required now even if the school is accredited. State employees went through The Ranches Academy Charter and generated the form based on the charter. Each board member was distributed a copy of the form to collectively read, discuss and answer the questions asked. The question of Core Knowledge end of the year testing was questioned as if it was even in our charter. Susie Scherer will check the charter to determine if perhaps that State copied from another charter.

The following strengths were listed on the form:

- ✚ Science is a strength in that many of our students go on to Region and State. Hands on approach to science
- ✚ Adhering to our Mission Statement as to grouping students based on the needs of the students
- ✚ The number of minority has increased creating a diversity of population – more people applying from hearing about others successes. This sets us up for more grants, as well as the socioeconomic status.
- ✚ Fabulous staff with low turn over
- ✚ Good relationship with the director
- ✚ The number of applicants in our lottery

School Calendar 2015 – 2016

School will begin on August 17th and there will be 178 instructional days and two professional days. There are only two changes from the Alpine School District's Calendar. The Ranches Academy will begin school on Monday the 17th rather than the Wednesday the 19th and Thanksgiving break will be November 23rd through November 27th, where as Alpine School District's Thanksgiving break begins on November 25th through the 27th Utah State requires 180 days with 990 hours. A four-hour day counts as a day. We usually have 1100 hours. Suzie Bassett motioned that we approve the 2015 – 2016 School Calendar as we have reviewed and looked at it; with the understanding that if Alpine District changes their calendar we can amend The Ranches Academy calendar. Eric Ansah-Antwi - second. Unanimous

School Dress Code

It is requested we amend the Dress Code to reflect that there are no holes of any kind in pants or jeans and that we allow Cargo pants and shorts. The rule for patches on holes is that they need to be on the inside. James Montgomery motioned that we accept the Dress Code to reflect that jeans or pants have no holes, and pants or shorts with cargo pockets are accepted. Suzie Bassett second. Unanimous James Montgomery motioned that the changes are effective immediately. Eric Ansh-Antwi - second Unanimous

Lottery Procedures

Discussion and information took place.

The following information is more clearly written:

Notification and Response Deadlines:

Parents will be notified via e-mail and/or phone. The Ranches Academy will attempt to contact parents regarding their child's admission a minimum of two times. If the parent cannot be contacted or is non-responsive within a designated time period, the available space may be offered to the next student on the lottery list. Response deadlines are calculated from the first attempted contact as follows:

Date of First Attempted Contact:	Response Deadline:
*Lottery through June 30 th	2 Weeks
July 1 st through July 31 st	1 Week
August 1 st through First Day of School	48 hours (2 working days)
First Day of School through September 30 th	24 hours (1 working day)
October 1 st until March 1 st	48 hours (2 working days)

Advertising consists of Facebook, webpage and emails to previous applications. The teachers would like the Preference pool to consist of Staff and Board Lottery, Sibling's Lottery, General Lottery and After March 1st Lottery. The Preference Pool can only be made up of 5% and we've never exceeded that number. The board member's child or grandchild is considered as qualifying. Suzie Bassett motioned that we approve the lottery Preference Pool as first Staff/Current Board member's child or grandchild., then second Sibling, then General, and after March 1st last. James Montgomery - second. Unanimous

Staff Reporting Policy

Staff must report any arrests within 24 hours of the occurrence/s to the school director. The director will report with 48 hours to the board and staff. The director will make the decision, but the board can make the final decision to allow the employee grievance with the board. Volunteers cannot work with students unsupervised. Susie Scherer explained the new software for entrance to the school. The driver's license will be scanned each time and it will automatically check the criminal databases. We will continue practice drills, all doors closed except the front door, and fence around the playgrounds. James Montgomery motioned that the Staff Reporting Policy with the amendment on the level of grievance be accepted. Eric Ansh-Antwi – second. Unanimous

Stakeholders Surveys

Over all parents were happy and positive.

Under, What you wish was different?

- + Would like to be notified about tardies – These are available for grades 2nd through 6th on the State's SIS login
- + Complaints about drop off. Some people are rude
- + Add 7th and 8th grades
- + Start Later
- + Not to walk into school without sign in

Under, What you like best.

- + High quality faculty
- + Smaller school
- + Uniforms
- + Teaching based on student needs

We are looking into adding a Del Taco lunch next year

Eric Ansh-Antwi asked about safety concerns in the absence of the director and if we had a safety officer on site.

Susie Scherer explained that we continue to have lock down drills and that in her absence Dwight Payne and Jillaine Clark are designated to handle safety issues.

Jennifer Payne is over discipline issues and the online data system. Desirae Smoot is third in line to cover discipline in the absence of the director and Jennifer Payne

Budget Report

Matt Lovell explained in detail the Financial Summary and the Budget Detail Report to date. Each board member was given a copy to review as the explanations were given. Matt Lovell also gave each board member a Comparable Stats report for income and expenditures of other charter schools in Utah. Salary comparisons were also compared. Benefits for staff were also discussed and compared.

Salary Cap

After much discussion, it was suggested that the cap for a TA be placed at \$14.00 per hour and that the director cap be at \$100,000. James Montgomery made the motion that the salary caps be set at \$14.00 for TA's and \$100,000 for the director and be revisited as the economy warrants. Eric Ansh-Antwi – second. Unanimous

Suzie Bassett moved that the meeting move to closed session. James Montgomery – second. Unanimous

Non board members were dismissed.

Closed Session

James Montgomery motioned that the meeting be adjourned

Suzie Bassett – second

Unanimous